

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 377

By Sexton C

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator William Emerson "Bill" Brock III from Tennessee.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Emerson "Bill" Brock III, a former U.S. Senator from Tennessee who had served the Republican Party as chairman of its national committee and his country as U.S. Trade Representative and Secretary of Labor under President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman and politician of the old school, Senator Brock spoke out publicly against the lack of civility in today's political arena and criticized the "inexcusably divisive, even abusive, language of recent years"; and

WHEREAS, as an elected official, Senator Brock believed in doing what was right, as opposed to what was politically expedient, and he was committed to working out differences between opposing viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, in short, "he was a statesman of the highest caliber, leading by example, with kindness and humility"; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chattanooga, Bill Brock served in both chambers of Congress; although he was raised as a Democrat, he was skeptical of either party being too dominant and ran as a Republican for Tennessee's Third Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, his election to the U.S. House in 1962 was an early step in the reemergence and subsequent growth of the GOP in Tennessee; Bill Brock represented the good people of the Third Congressional District for four terms as the first Republican the district had sent to Washington, D.C., in forty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, he defeated the eighteen-year Senate incumbent from Tennessee, a mere four years after Howard Baker, Jr., had become the first Tennessee Republican to serve in the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Senator Brock and Senator Baker truly reenergized the Republican Party and made a great impact both nationally and at the state level; many GOP faithful regard Bill Brock as the "father of the modern Republican Party" in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after serving one term in the U.S. Senate, Bill Brock was immediately elected chairman of the Republican National Committee, a position in which he served astutely from 1977 to 1981; and

WHEREAS, in the fallout from the Watergate scandal, Senator Brock was instrumental in the GOP rebounding from excessive debt, and he guided the party to victories in local races, "rebuilding the party from the ground up" by welcoming "people of different races, backgrounds, and perspectives"; and

WHEREAS, due to his leadership, the Republicans took control of the U.S. Senate for the first time in a quarter of a century, gained forty-nine seats in the House of Representatives, and elected Ronald Reagan to the Presidency; and

WHEREAS, after his tenure with the RNC, Bill Brock was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve as U.S. Trade Representative, and he led the U.S.'s first trade negotiations with Israel, Canada, and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his leadership in promoting the expansion of international trade rules to encompass, for the first time, intellectual property, services, and investment, Ambassador Brock founded the Quad Forum, a quarterly informal meeting of the trade ministers of Europe, Japan, Canada, and the United States, and the Rio Group of seventeen leading trading nations to facilitate greater coordination between trade and finance ministries; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Brock was recognized by *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the "fathers" of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations and subsequently the World Trade Organization; and

WHEREAS, he served four years as Secretary of Labor in the Reagan Administration from 1985 to 1989, in which position Secretary Brock was widely praised for his strong executive leadership in a major reform of pension laws, the restoration of constructive labor-management relations, and the creation of the landmark study of workforce and workplace trends in a global economy entitled *Work Force 2000*; and

WHEREAS, he co-chaired the National Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce and chaired the Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills, which set a new course for elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the federal government, Bill Brock founded a trade consulting firm in Washington, D.C.; he later moved to Maryland, where he was the Republican nominee for one of the state's U.S. Senate seats in 1994; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his passing, he was serving as a Senior Counselor and member of the board of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, for which he chaired the International Policy Roundtable, and he often wrote op-eds on education, trade, policy, and politics; and

WHEREAS, Bill Brock was the grandson of William Emerson Brock, Sr., the owner of a successful candy manufacturing company who briefly served as a Democrat in the U.S. Senate, filling a two-year vacancy in 1929; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the McCallie School, Senator Brock attended Washington and Lee University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from there in 1953; and

WHEREAS, before his entry into the realm of politics, Senator Brock worked for the family candy company; he had also served his country for three years in the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, former U.S. Senator and Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander said of his friend and colleague: "Bill Brock was a true political pioneer who helped build the Tennessee Republican Party from scratch and then went on to become one of our nation's most distinguished public servants"; and

WHEREAS, Senator Brock was preceded in death by his mother, Myra Kruesi "Peggy" Brock; his father, William Emerson "Bill" Brock, Jr.; and his wife, Laura Handley "Muffet" Brock; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Sandra Schubert "Sandy" Brock; two brothers, Paul "Pat" Brock and Frank Brock; six children and stepchildren and their spouses, William "Bill" Brock IV (Laura), Oscar Brock (Meg), Laura "Hutche" Brock Doley (Chris), John Brock (Peggy), Julie Cram Janka (John), and Stephen "Steve" Cram (Theresa); nineteen grandchildren, William "Bill" Brock V (Morgan), Stephen Brock, Michael "Hutch" Brock (Sarah), Margaret "Archer" Brock, Eleanor Brock, Peter Doley, Laura Doley, Erin Doley, Katherine "Katie" Doley, John "JB" Brock, Morgan Cram (Nathalie), Samantha Cram Butler (Taft), Reagan Cram, McKay Cram, Brandon Fritz, Ian Fritz, Kala Fritz, Nicole Janka, and Alexis Janka; and two great-grandchildren, Cora Brock and Ryleigh Fritz, all of whom "will remember him for his gentle, loving spirit and his abiding commitment to his Father, his family, and his country"; and

WHEREAS, Bill Brock transformed the Republican Party through acumen, leadership, commitment, and hard work, while also bringing grace, compassion, and humility to each of his endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Senator William Emerson "Bill" Brock III from Tennessee, reflecting fondly upon his legacy of proficient public service rendered in accordance

with the highest moral principles, and extend our condolences and sympathy to Senator Brock's family, colleagues, and many friends and admirers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.